

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN, SOCI, PL

SUBJECT: ARREST AND IMPRISONMENT OF POLISH CITIZEN

1. SENATOR CASE URGENTLY SEEKS ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON SITUATION OF ANDRZEJ WALCZAK OF SZCZESCIE-DOMASLOW, NEAR KEPNO, IN KALISZ PROVINCE. HE WAS REPORTEDLY ARRESTED ON/ABOUT FEBRUARY 17 AND HELD AT WRONKI PRISON WITHOUT CHARGES HAVING BEEN BROUGHT, EVIDENTLY BECAUSE EARLY LAST DECEMBER HE HAD BEEN DISCOVERED BY BORDER GUARDS TO BE CARRYING BLANK CHECK WRITTEN ON ITALIAN BANK ACCOUNT OF J. SEWARD JOHNSON AND HIS WIFE BARBARA, WHO IS WALCZAK'S COUSIN, AND SIGNED BY MRS. JOHNSON'S BROTHER GRZEGORZ PIASECKI, WHO IS AUTHORIZED TO DRAW ON THE ACCOUNT. JOHNSON IS WITH JOHNSON AND JOHNSON CO. AND CLOSE FRIEND OF SENATOR CASE.

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2. PIASECKI AND MR. JOHNSON OPERATE PIASECKI FARM IN SZCZESCIE-DOMASLOW AS A PARTNERSHIP, HEAVILY SUPPORTED BY JOHNSON; WALCZAK WORKS ON FARM. PIASECKI HAD ALLEGEDLY ASKED WALCZAK TO TAKE CHECK TO MRS. JOHNSON'S SECRETARY IN ITALY TO FIND OUT HOW MUCH WAS IN THE ACCOUNT, FILL OUT CHECK AND BRING CASH BACK TO POLAND TO COVER FARM EXPENSES. MRS. JOHNSON SAYS HER BROTHER DID NOT TRY TO CASH CHECK IN

POLISH BANK BECAUSE IT NORMALLY TAKES TWO MONTHS FOR FOREIGN CHECKS TO CLEAR. CHECK WAS CONFISCATED IN DECEMBER; WALCZAK NOT ARRESTED UNTIL FEBRUARY. MRS. JOHNSON REPORTS THAT LOCAL POLICE WENT TO PIASECKI FARM AFTER WALCZAK ARRESTED, SEARCHED IT AND TOOK DOCUMENTS, GOLD AND OTHER VALUABLES.

3. JOHNSON SENT TELEGRAM TO MFA WARSAW EARLY MARCH AND HAS ASKED BOTH AMBASSADOR TRAMPCZYNSKI AND POLISH CG IN NEW YORK TO PROVIDE HIM INFORMATION ON CASE; NO RESPONSE YET. JOHNSON MOST CONCERNED TO HAVE NEWS OF WALCZAK'S HEALTH AND OF CHARGES AGAINST HIM AS WELL AS TO ARRANGE FOR WALCZAK'S WIFE TO VISIT AND FOR WALCZAK TO BE REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL. PIASECKI PRESENTLY VISITING IN U.S. AND RELUCTANT TO RETURN WITHOUT WRITTEN ASSURANCE FROM POLISH GOVERNMENT THAT HE AND HIS FAMILY CAN RETURN TO POLAND "WITHOUT RISK."

4. WHILE THIS MATTER BEING HANDLED AS REGULAR ITEM OF CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE (COPIES TO WARSAW AND POZNAN), SENATOR ANXIOUS FOR ANY INFORMATION POSTS CAN DEVELOP RIGHT AWAY. OUR LETTER TO SENATOR NOTES LIMITATIONS OF OUR OFFICIAL INTERVENTION IN CASE INVOLVING GOP AND POLISH CITIZEN AND SAYS IT IS UNLIKELY GOP WOULD GIVE ANY ASSURANCE ON PIASECKI'S RETURN "WITHOUT RISK." WE WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY RESPONSE, EVEN IF ESSENTIALLY NEGATIVE. CHRISTOPHER

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